

Age of First Use among Primary Admissions for Alcohol in Kentucky: 2001-2007.

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In Brief

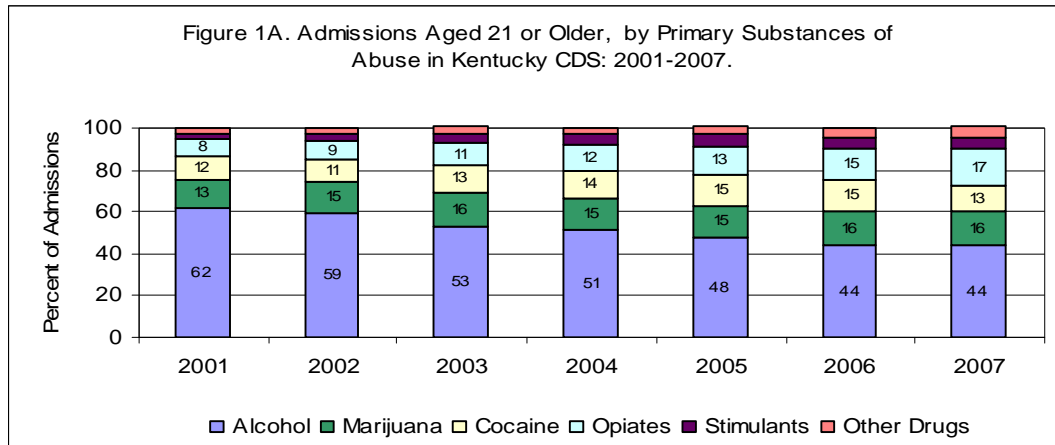
- Primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older admitted to treatment made up large proportion of 62 percent in 2001 and slightly dropped to 44 percent in 2007.
- Of primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or over to treatment, those who reported their age of first use of alcohol as 21 or older were predominantly largest (about 90 percent) from 2001 to 2007.
- Among primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older, the average age of first use of alcohol for males was likely to be about two years younger than for females (15.8 vs. 17.5 years old in 2001; 15.8 vs. 17.1 years old in 2007).
- Primary alcohol admissions with an age of first use prior age 12 were more likely than all other age groups to have a history of five or more previous treatments from 2001 to 2007.

This report examines characteristics of primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older by age of first use of alcohol, based on the Kentucky Client Data Set¹ from 2001 to 2007. Age of first use is defined differently for alcohol than for drugs. For alcohol, age of first use identifies the age of first intoxication. For drugs, age of first use identifies the age at which the respective drug was first used².

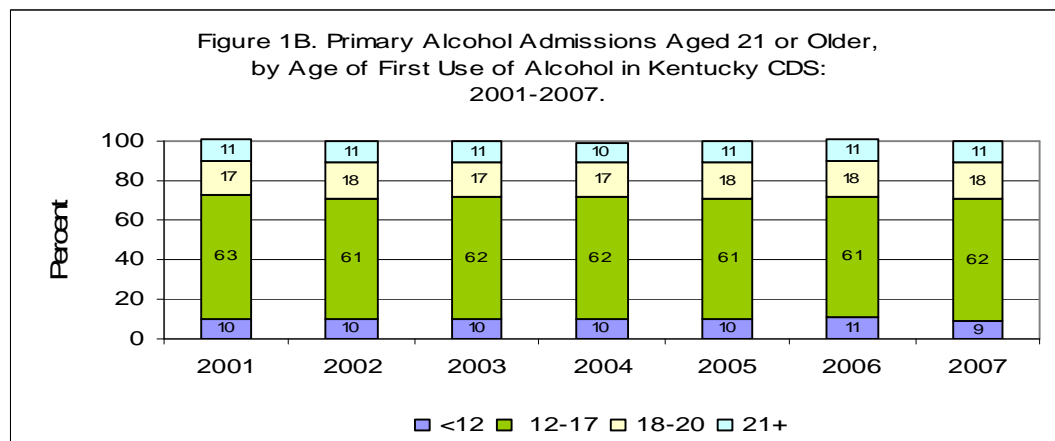
Age of First Use of Alcohol

Primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older admitted to treatment made

up a large proportion (62 percent in 2001) and slightly declined to 44 percent in 2007 (Fig. 1A and Table 1A in Appendix).



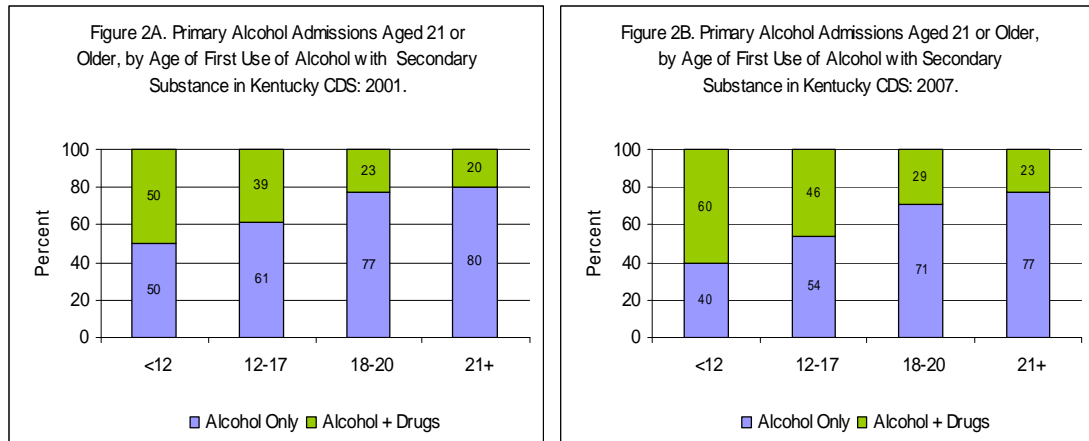
Of primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or over to treatment, the largest percentages reported their age of first use of alcohol before 21 years old were 89 percent in 2001 and remained unchanged from that year to 2007 (Figure 1B and Table 1B in Appendix).



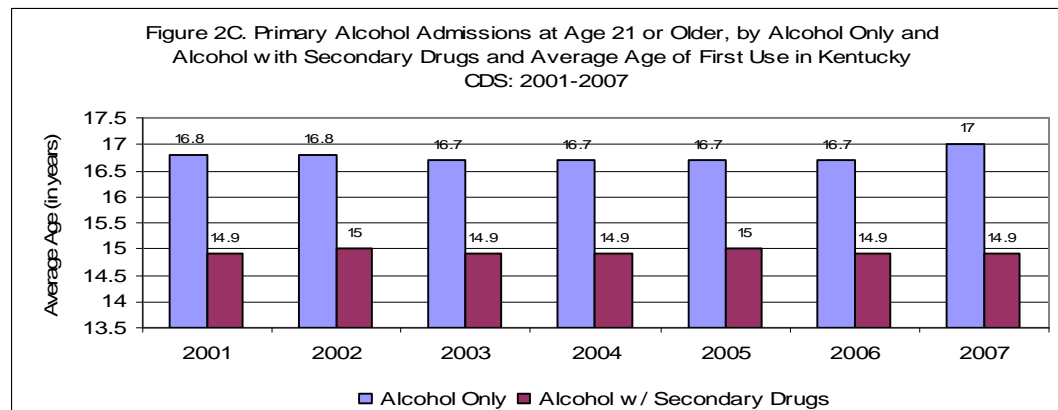
Among primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older, those who reported their age of first use of alcohol as younger 12 years old made up 11 percent each from 2001 to 2007; whereas, those who reported their age of first use of this substance as between 18 and 20 years old had over 80 percent for the same time period (Figure 1B and Table 1B in Appendix).

Primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older for treatment of alcohol alone had declined from 65% in 2001 to 58% in 2007; while those primary alcohol admissions with abuse of secondary drugs had slightly

increased from 36% to 42% between the same years (Table 1C in Appendix). The distribution of admissions of primary alcohol alone and alcohol with a secondary drug of abuse shows that admissions with an age of first use younger than 18 years old were likely to report large percentages of both alcohol and drug abuse at admission; whereas, admissions with age of first use as 18 or older were likely to report significantly larger percentages of alcohol alone than those of alcohol with abuse of a secondary drug (Figure 2A, 2B and Table 1C in Appendix).



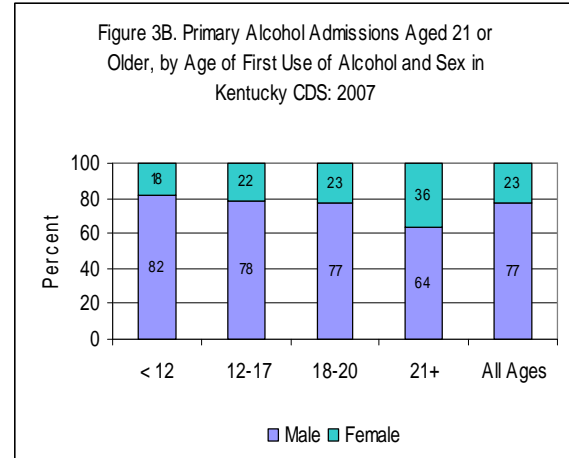
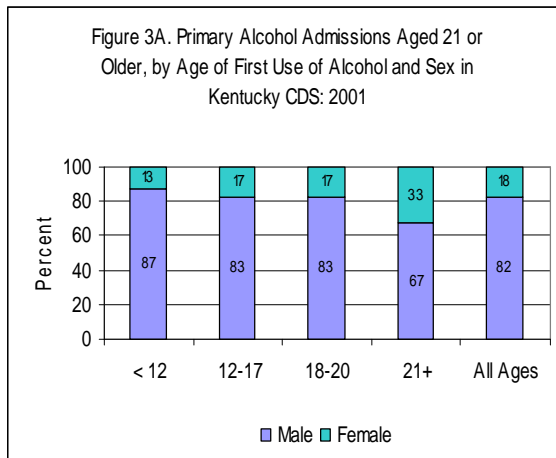
The average age of first use of alcohol alone was likely to be about two years older than the average age of first use alcohol with a secondary drug (16.8 vs. 14.9 in 2001; 17.0 vs. 14.9 years old in 2007) (Figure 2C and Table 1C in Appendix).



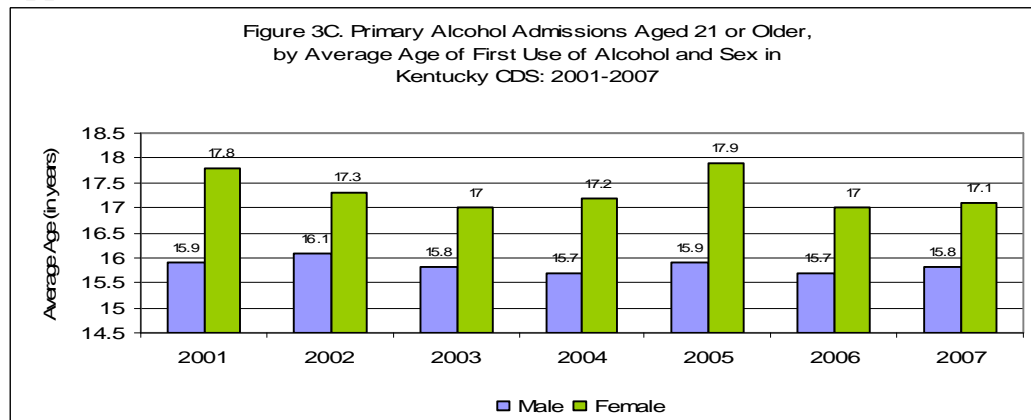
Demographic Characteristics

Out of primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older, the majority of users of alcohol were more likely to be males than females (82% vs. 18 percent

in 2001; 77% vs. 23% in 2007). Specifically examined, males made up a smaller percentage of primary alcohol admissions that reported their age of first use as 21 or older than among those that reported a younger age of first use (67% vs. from 83% to 86% in 2001; 64% vs. from 75% to 80% in 2007). In contrast, females made up a larger percentage of primary alcohol admissions that reported their age of first use as 21 or older than among those that reported a younger age of first use of alcohol (34% vs. from 13% to 17% in 2001; 36% vs. from 18% to 23% in 2007) (Figures 3A, 3B and Table 2 in Appendix).



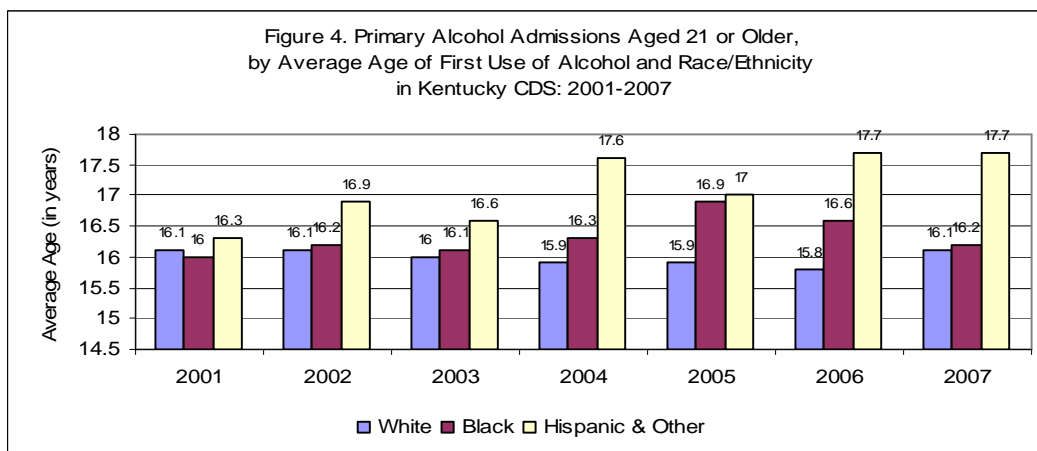
Males' average age of first use of alcohol among primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older was likely to be about two years younger than females' average age of first use of alcohol (15.8 vs. 17.5 years old in 2001; 15.8 vs. 17.1 years old in 2007) (Figure 3C and Table 2 in Appendix).



Among primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older, Whites made up the largest proportion regardless of age of first use, as compared to Blacks or

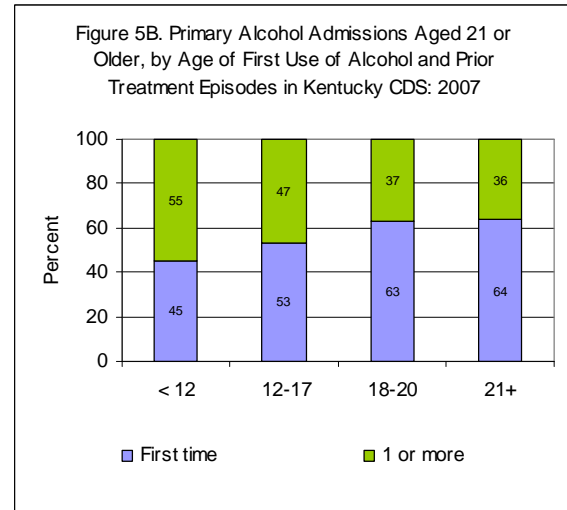
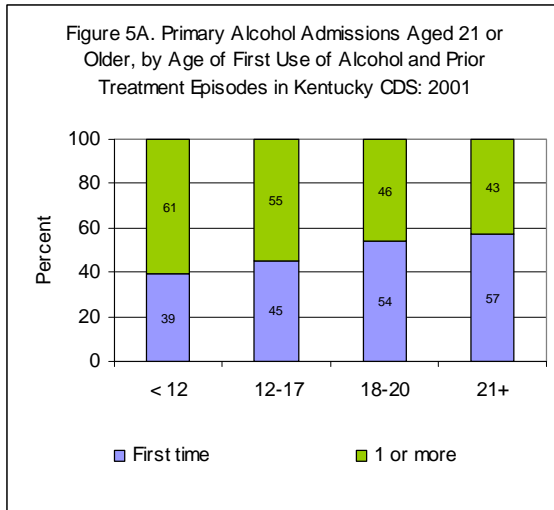
Hispanics and others. However, Whites had less percentages of first use of alcohol as under 21 years old than those with their age of first use as 21 or older; whereas, Blacks or Hispanics and others had more percentages of first use as 21 or over than those of first use at age under 21 years old (Table 3 in Appendix).

The average age of first use of alcohol differed insignificantly by racial/ethnic groups; however, Whites were likely to start using alcohol at their age a little younger than Blacks or Hispanics and others (16.1, 16.0, and 16.3 years old in 2001, respectively; and 16.1, 16.2, and 17.7 years old in 2007, respectively) (Figure 4 and Table 3 in Appendix).



Prior Treatments

Among primary alcohol admissions aged 21 or older, those who started using alcohol at their early age before 12 were more likely than all other age groups (12-17, 18-20 and 21 or older) to have one or more previous treatments (61% vs. 55%, 46%, and 43%, respectively, in 2001; 54% vs. 47%, 38%, and 37%, respectively, in 2007). Contrarily, those who reported their age of first use of alcohol after 20 were less likely than all other age groups (under 12, 12-17 and 18-20) to have a history of five or more previous treatments (2% vs. 8%, 4%, and 2%, respectively, in 2001; 1% vs. 8%, 4%, and 2%, respectively, in 2007) (Figure 5A, 5B and Table 4 in Appendix).



Notes:

¹This report is based on data selected from the Kentucky Client Data Set (CDS), fiscal years 2001-2007, collected from 14 Community Mental Health Centers in Kentucky and maintained by the University of Kentucky's Research and Data Management Center (UK-RDMC).

²Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (October 22, 2004). The NSDUH Report: Alcohol Dependence or Abuse and Age at First Use. Rockville, MD. Also, see Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) Highlights – 2003, SAMHSA, Drug and Alcohol Services Information System Series: S-27, p. 31. For age of first use of drugs in Kentucky, see the report on Primary Drug Admissions by Age of First Use of Drugs in Kentucky: CDS, FY 2001-2007.

³Primary substance of abuse is the main substance reported at the time of admission.

⁴Secondary substance of abuse is the other substances also reported at the time of admission.

Table 1A. Treatment Admissions Aged 12-20 and 21 or over, by Primary Substance of Abuse in Kentucky CDS: FY 2001-2007*. Number and Percent Distribution.

Primary Admissions of Age Groups**	All admi s- sions	Alcohol	Mari- juana	Cocaine/ crack	Opiates	Stimu- lants	Other
2001 Admissions							
Ages 12-20	2,668	33.2	50.8	3.4	6.0	1.9	4.6
Ages 21 or over	14,948	61.5	13.2	11.6	8.3	2.2	3.3
2002 Admissions							
Ages 12-20	2,494	32.2	51.2	3.0	5.9	2.8	4.9
Ages 21 or over	14,330	58.6	15.2	11.0	8.9	3.0	3.3
2003 Admissions							
Ages 12-20	2,323	29.3	50.1	3.6	8.7	3.1	5.3
Ages 21 or over	15,825	53.3	15.6	13.0	10.9	3.7	3.5
2004 Admissions							
Ages 12-20	2,276	27.0	49.3	4.7	10.2	4.3	4.6
Ages 21 or over	16,519	51.1	14.9	14.1	12.0	4.5	3.4
2005 Admissions							
Ages 12-20	2,178	26.8	52.1	5.3	8.1	3.7	4.0
Ages 21 or over	15,266	47.7	15.1	15.4	12.8	5.5	3.5
2006 Admissions							
Ages 12-20	2,165	28.7	49.8	5.6	7.6	3.6	4.7
Ages 21 or over	15,705	44.4	15.8	15.4	14.7	6.1	3.7
2007 Admissions							
Ages 12-20	1,882	27.6	46.3	4.9	13.1	3.2	4.8
Ages 21 or over	13,687	44.0	15.6	12.8	16.8	6.2	4.7

*SOURCE: Data were computed from Kentucky Client Data Set 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include none/unknown primary substances of abuse or unknown/invalid age.

Table 1B. Primary Alcohol Admissions at Age 21 or Older,
by Age of First Use of Alcohol in Kentucky CDS: 2001-2007*.
Number and Percent Distribution and Average Age of First
Use Alcohol (in Years).

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Fiscal Year Admissions**	Age of First Use of Alcohol					Avg. Age
	All Ages	< 12	12-17	18-20	21+	
2001 Admissions	7,466	10.0	62.5	16.6	10.8	16.1
2002 Admissions	7,110	9.5	61.3	17.8	11.4	16.2
2003 Admissions	8,113	10.3	62.2	17.0	10.5	16.0
2004 Admissions	7,445	10.1	62.4	17.2	10.3	16.0
2005 Admissions	6,264	10.4	60.8	18.0	10.8	16.0
2006 Admissions	6,910	10.7	61.0	17.7	10.7	15.9
2007 Admissions	5,930	9.2	62.3	17.7	10.9	16.1

*Sources: Data from Client Data Sets, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown/invalid ages.

Table 1C. Primary Alcohol Admissions at Age 21 or Older,
by Age of First Use of Alcohol and Presence of Secondary
Substances of Abuse in Kentucky CDS: 2001-2007*.
Number and Percent Distribution and Average Age of First
Use of Alcohol (in years).

Fiscal Year Admission**	Age of First Use of Alcohol					Avg. Age	
	All Ages	< 12	12-17	18-20	21+		
2001							
- Alcohol Only	64.5	50.2	60.8	76.6	80.0	16.8	
- Alcohol with Secondary Drugs	35.5	49.8	39.2	23.4	20.0	14.9	
2002							
- Alcohol Only	64.2	50.5	60.2	76.3	78.8	16.8	
- Alcohol with Secondary Drugs	35.8	49.5	39.8	23.7	21.2	15.0	
2003							
- Alcohol Only	60.4	46.3	56.7	74.2	74.2	16.7	
- Alcohol with Secondary Drugs	39.6	53.7	43.3	25.8	25.8	14.9	
2004							
- Alcohol Only	58.3	42.7	55.3	69.8	72.8	16.7	
- Alcohol with Secondary Drugs	41.7	57.3	44.7	30.2	27.2	14.9	
2005							
- Alcohol Only	57.8	44.3	53.7	70.6	72.3	16.7	
- Alcohol with Secondary Drugs	42.2	55.7	46.3	29.4	27.7	15.0	
2006							
- Alcohol Only	56.9	40.2	52.9	69.6	75.0	16.7	
- Alcohol with Secondary Drugs	43.1	59.8	47.1	30.4	25.0	14.9	
2007							
- Alcohol Only	58.3	40.4	54.0	71.1	77.2	17.0	
- Alcohol with Secondary Drugs	41.7	59.6	46.0	28.9	22.8	14.9	

*Sources: Data from Client Data Sets, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown/invalid ages.

Table 2. Primary Alcohol Admissions at Age 21 or Older,
by Age of First Use of Alcohol and Sex in Kentucky CDS:
FY 2001-2007*. Number and Percent Distribution and
Average Age of First Use of Alcohol (in Years)

Fiscal Year Admissions of Gender**	Age of First Use of Alcohol					Avg. Age
	All Ages	< 12	12-17	18-20	21 +	
2001						
Male	81.7	86.6	83.1	83.1	66.5	15.8
Female	18.3	13.4	16.9	16.9	33.5	17.5
2002						
Male	81.2	83.5	82.8	81.3	70.6	16.0
Female	18.8	16.5	17.2	18.7	29.4	17.1
2003						
Male	78.6	82.6	79.9	80.3	64.2	15.7
Female	21.4	17.4	20.1	19.7	35.8	16.9
2004						
Male	77.9	81.0	79.4	79.5	63.1	15.7
Female	21.9	18.9	20.3	20.2	36.8	17.0
2005						
Male	76.9	82.6	79.0	75.9	61.4	15.6
Female	22.4	17.3	20.2	23.2	38.5	17.2
2006						
Male	77.0	81.9	77.7	79.4	63.8	15.6
Female	22.9	17.8	22.2	20.4	36.0	16.8
2007						
Male	76.7	81.8	78.1	77.2	64.1	15.8
Female	23.3	18.2	21.9	22.8	35.9	17.1

*Sources: Data from Client Data Sets, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown sex.

Table 3. Primary Alcohol Admissions at Age 21 or Older, by Age of First Use of Alcohol and Race/Ethnicity in Kentucky CDS: FY 2001-2007*. Number and Percent Distribution and Average Age of First Use of Alcohol (in Years)

Fiscal Year Admissions of Race/Ethnicity**	Age of First Use of Alcohol					Avg. Age
	All Ages	< 12	12-17	18-20	21 +	
2001						
White	6,742	88.8	91.0	88.4	90.3	16.1
Black	586	9.3	7.3	9.3	7.7	16.0
Other	139	1.9	1.7	2.3	2.0	16.3
2002						
White	6,419	90.4	91.2	87.4	88.9	16.1
Black	515	7.9	6.4	8.9	8.5	16.2
Other	184	1.8	2.4	3.6	2.6	16.9
2003						
White	7,207	90.5	88.7	85.8	87.0	16.0
Black	757	8.0	8.9	10.9	10.3	16.1
Other	208	1.6	2.5	3.4	2.7	16.6
2004						
White	6,566	88.9	89.5	86.1	82.7	15.9
Black	714	10.0	8.8	10.5	12.7	16.3
Other	167	1.1	1.7	3.4	4.6	17.6
2005						
White	5,554	91.0	90.0	84.2	84.1	15.9
Black	607	7.3	8.7	12.1	13.0	16.9
Other	120	1.7	1.3	3.6	2.9	17.0
2006						
White	6,096	91.1	90.1	86.0	85.7	15.8
Black	633	8.1	8.5	11.2	11.4	16.6
Other	118	0.8	1.4	2.8	2.9	17.2
2007						
White	5,150	91.1	91.3	89.3	87.2	16.1
Black	444	8.5	7.2	8.5	9.3	16.2
Other	97	0.4	1.4	2.2	3.5	17.7

*Sources: Data from Client Data Sets, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown race/ethnicity.

Table 4. Primary Alcohol Admissions Aged 21 or Older,
by Age of First Use of Alcohol and Prior Treatment
Episodes in Kentucky CDS: FY 2001-2007*. Number and
Percent Distribution.

Prior Treatment Episodes**	Age of First Use of Alcohol				
	All Ages	< 12	12-17	18-20	21 +
2001					
None	3,201	38.7	44.7	53.7	57.2
1-4 times	3,329	53.0	50.9	44.0	41.0
5 or more	279	8.3	4.3	2.3	1.9
2002					
None	3,434	39.0	48.3	58.6	60.1
1-4 times	3,091	54.5	47.2	40.0	38.1
5 or more	260	6.5	4.5	1.4	1.8
2003					
None	4,278	40.9	51.8	61.3	61.3
1-4 times	3,398	50.5	43.7	36.4	35.9
5 or more	352	8.6	4.5	2.3	2.7
2004					
None	4,083	42.9	53.7	62.6	62.4
1-4 times	3,011	49.0	41.9	34.4	35.0
5 or more	325	8.1	4.5	3.0	2.6
2005					
None	3,433	42.0	53.9	61.7	62.9
1-4 times	2,513	49.4	40.7	36.1	36.1
5 or more	292	8.6	5.4	2.2	1.0
2006					
None	3,761	37.9	52.9	64.8	64.6
1-4 times	2,790	51.7	41.9	33.5	33.5
5 or more	329	10.4	5.2	1.7	1.9
2007					
None	3,268	45.3	53.2	62.5	63.5
1-4 times	2,428	46.6	42.7	35.7	35.3
5 or more	219	8.1	4.0	1.8	1.2

*Sources: Data from Client Data Sets, fiscal years 2001-2007.

**Total admissions did not include unknown prior treatment episodes.